

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03049 141013Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IO-13 USIA-15 COME-00
TRSE-00 EPG-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
/063 W

-----141723Z 130393 /70

R 140846Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3081

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3049

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJ: SYRIAN GRAIN CROP FORECASTS

REF: (A) SY7006, (B) TOFAS 41, (C) ROME 7521

TOFAS 45. IN SPITE OF RAINS DURING APRIL REPORTED
REF (A), MOISTURE CONDITIONS EARLIER IN THE SEASON
WERE VERY POOR IN MAJOR GRAIN AREAS OF THE NORTHEAST
(RAQQA, HASAKEH) AND SOUTHEAST (HOURAN). LATEST REPORTS
FROM KNOWLEDGABLE OFFICIAL SOURCES INDICATE SHARP
DROP IN GRAIN PRODUCTION EXPECTED THIS SEASON
COMPARED WITH 1976. ACREAGE ESTIMATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE,
BUT AREAS SEEDED SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNCHANGED FROM
YEAR EARLIER. OFFICIAL SOURCE FORECASTS 1977 WHEAT
CROP AT ONE MILLION MT, BARLEY AT 100,000 MT AND
LENTILS AT 80,000 MT, COMPARED WITH OFFICIAL ESTIMATES
OF 1.79 MILLION MT WHEAT, 1.06 MILLION MT BARLEY AND
160,000 MT LENTILS IN 1976.

2. BASED ON ABOVE FORECASTS, WE EXPECT CEREALS OFFICE
TO PURCHASE 100,000 TO 150,000 MT OF 1977 CROP WHEAT,
NEGLECTIBLE AMOUNTS OF BARLEY AND 40,000 TO 50,000 MT
OF LENTILS. WE UNDERSTAND CEREALS OFFICE WILL NOT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 03049 141013Z

EXPORT ANYMORE 1976 CROP BARLEY. WE BELIEVE SOME
70,000 TONS ALREADY EXPORTED. REPORTEDLY NO IMPORTS
OF BARLEY EXPECTED DURING 1977/78 WHEAT IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN, BUT WE BELIEVE POSSIBILITY
OF 200,000 TO 250,000 MT EXIST. CEREALS OFFICE
SHOWING INTEREST IN USING CCC CREDIT LINE FOR
WHEAT AS REPORTED REF (B). FLOUR IMPORTS DURING

CALENDAR 1977 ESTIMATED AT 270,000 MT BASED ON
ACTUAL IMPORTS JAN/APR, CONTRACTS FOR MAY/JUNE AND
PURCHASE PLANS FOR DELIVERY REMAINDER OF YEAR.

3. COMMENT: RAQQA, HASSAKEH, AND THE HOURAN HAVE PRODUCED,
HISTORICALLY ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF SYRIA'S WINTER GRAINS, SO
THAT INADEQUATE MOISTURE IN THESE AREAS HAS HAD A PRO-
PORTIONATE EFFECT ON GRAIN PROJECTIONS. BARLEY, IN PARTICULAR,
IS AN EARLIER CROP GROWN IN AREAS OF
MARGINAL RAINFALL AND LATE APRIL RAINS DID NOT
HELP MUCH EVEN IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THEY FELL. HOWEVER, TAKEN
AGAINST A TEN-YEAR AVERAGE, ONE MILLION METRIC TONS OF WHEAT
IS NOT A HARVEST MUCH BELOW AVERAGE.
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC03049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770171-0635
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770559/aaaabybz.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca49d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 7521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2524004
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN GRAIN CROP FORECASTS
TAGS: EAGR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca49d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009